

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COTONO 00370 271420Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 /012 W
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P R 271331Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8208
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0370

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, DM, US
SUBJ: COTONOU BRIDGE/DAM - VISIT OF S&T REP PERERA

REF (A) STATE 47246, (B) COTONOU 344, (C) STATE 40623,
(D) ABIDJAN 1813, (E) STATE 34136, (F) STATE 35047,

PERERA VISIT IS A TECHNICAL ONE IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE GPRB'S CONSULTANT ENGINEER. HIS MEETINGS ARE LIMITED TO TECHNICAL LEVEL PERSONNEL AT MIN OF EQUIPMENT, AND WITH GTE, THE FIRM DOING THE AFDB-FINANCED DAM. NEITHER AID NOR EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE ACCOMPANIED HIM ON MEETING ALREADY HELD AND NONE WILL ATTEND FUTURE MEETINGS. UPON ARRIVALIN COTONOU FEB 26, EMBASSY BRIEFED PERERA AND STRESSED THAT HICKENLOOPER PROBLEM FAR FROM RESOLVED.

2. EMBASSY FULL REALIZED THAT AMONG OPTIONS BEING CONSIDERED BY DEPT WAS SUSPENSION OF ASSISTANCE TO BENIN. HOWEVER WE ALSO SAW THE FIRM MAY 15 TERMINAL DATE ON THE BRIDGE/DAM PROJECT AND BELIEVED THAT TECHNICAL MATTERS RELATED TO THE PROJECT (I.E. PERERA VISIT) SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED. OTHERWISE WE REASONED WE MIGHT BE FACED WITH SITUATION WHERE DEPT DECIDED TO ALLOW PROJECT TO GO FORWARD, BUT THERE WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH TIME TO WORK OUT TECHNICAL PROBLEMS PRIOR TO MAY 15 DEADLINE.
CHESHES

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Message Attributes

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